Mr. RUBY. Wait, you are ahead of me. The first conversation I didn't mention a lawyer to Mike Shore yet.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I realize that.

Mr. RUBY. Yes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. But I am still asking you, you had indicated to me that the reason that you were calling Shore and thinking about a life story was that you were going to need money for another lawyer. The life story, as I understand it, is tied in with the idea of getting the money for a lawyer, or was there another reason for selling the life story?

Mr. RUBY. No; I think I talked to Tom Howard because we never heard of him, of course. In the meantime, I think in conversations back and forth, we talked with another lawyer there, somebody talked to him from the family or maybe it was relayed through my sister Eva down there—and I have a brother Sam in Dallas—do we need another lawyer. And then we learned that they were already trying to get a lawyer.

Now, you must understand, we have to go back to Tom Howard. Tom Howard is a bondsman in addition to being a lawyer. That is what he is noted for there. So then I think I talked to this other lawyer, Stanley Kaufman. He was my brother's civil lawyer down there. And I asked him if he knows a good criminal laywer, and he says, no, he can't recommend anyone.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Let me interrupt you, Mr. Ruby.

Mr. RUBY. Excuse me. I can't remember the exact sequence of all these conversations, because they were going back and forth all day and night.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Maybe we can reconstruct it by asking you questions. From what you have said, I take it that by the time you called or somebody talked to Stanley Kaufman, the idea had been implanted that you would need a lawyer other than Tom Howard.

Mr. RUBY. Yes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Now, who had planted the idea? How did that idea develop that you would need a lawyer other than Tom Howard?

Mr. RUBY. I don't remember exactly, but it could have been even my own thoughts, because a day or two after the shooting and the papers started to print stories, and stories about Tom Howard, and I realized who he was, and he was suspended at one time, I immediately thought this was not a good lawyer to have for my brother.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Now, what was Jack's original attitude, if you know, about Tom Howard?

Mr. RUBY. He wasn't too crazy about Tom Howard, as far as I could see, from what he hold me, because he said Tom Howard contradicted himself a few times to him.

Mr. GRIFFIN. But did Jack, to your knowledge, develop the idea on his own that he should get somebody other than Howard, or was this suggestion raised to Jack?

Mr. RUBY. That I don't know. You are asking me what his thoughts were. I don't know. I can't answer that.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I didn't know if you had contact with him or not. Now, to your knowledge, were any other Dallas lawyers contacted besides Tom Howard before the final team of Belli, Tonahill, and Burleson?

Mr. RUBY. Oh, yes; Belli was the main one, you know. He was the first one.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes; but before Belli was brought in, were any other Dallas lawyers, or Texas lawyers——

Mr. RUBY. Oh, yes; they talked, Howard—Howard and I discussed this, and he said he needs help, he wouldn't mind another good lawyer. So we mentioned several names. He talked to Percy Foreman, and Percy Foreman, he told me Percy Foreman wants $25,000 as a retainer before he will even step into the case. So he says, "I know you don't have that kind of money so that eliminates him."

However, later, upon talking to Foreman, he denies that. He said he only asked for $2,500.

Anyhow, they contacted Stanley Kaufman, Stanley Kaufman contacted Fred Brunner. He is a Dallas criminal lawyer, very good. And the story I got is he says, "Okay, I'll handle the case. I will be right down to take over."

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He never showed up. We found out why. He is Henry Wade's best friend, and so it just wouldn't work out. He just couldn't take it. Although he never called, we understood that that is what happened, because they down there found out that he was Henry Wade's best friend, and so he probably for one reason or another, he couldn't take the case.

Mr. GRIFFIN. You don't have any personal knowledge, however, that the friendship with Howard was the reason that Brunner didn't take the case?

Mr. HUBERT. With Wade.

Mr. GRIFFIN. With Wade. You don't know this?

Mr. RUBY. No; I talked to Brunner myself when I was down there later on. Brunner said something to the effect—I don't remember the exact words. I ran into him in the county jail. I don't remember what he said.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did he say anything to you about why he didn't get into the case?

Mr. RUBY. I am just trying to, if I can find the words or something close to what he said. We just met in the hallway, and he said—I can't recall that conversation at all.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did Brunner mention——

Mr. RUBY. But I had a later conversation which I remember very clearly,——

Mr. GRIFFIN. Tell us about that.

Mr. RUBY. This was after Jack received the sentence, you know.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes.

Mr. RUBY. Then Brunner told me that he now wants to help Jack. He feels that this would never have happened if he had handled the case originally, the verdict, you know, the death verdict, and that I should talk to the family and think over about him taking over the defense.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Did he mention anything about Henry Wade at that conversation?

Mr. RUBY. Yes; he said, "Even though I am very close," words to the effect that "even though I am very close with Wade, don't let that worry you," or something to that effect. But I forget that first conversation, and I just don't want to give you words——

Mr. GRIFFIN. Had he mentioned Wade in the first conversation that you recall?

Mr. RUBY. I am not sure and I don't want to just—no, we contacted Percy Foreman. You want to know who else?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Yes.

Mr. RUBY. I didn't know. This is only that I learned from Howard. He said he contacted Percy Foreman. He contacted Fred Erisman, a retired judge. There is another one, another very good criminal lawyer, but I can't even think of his last name to look it up. Is it important? I've got it here, but I just can't remember the name.

Oh, yes; here is another one they talked to, I understand—Jim Martin. In fact, he was in the case more or less with Howard. Oh, that is Charlie Tessmer, the other lawyer they contacted. And he turned it down. Why, he never told us, but he turned it down. In the meantime, I had talked to Charlie Bellows from Chicago who is now acting as consultant.

Mr. GRIFFIN. How did you happen to contact Mr. Bellows?

Mr. RUBY. Well, one of my close friends in Chicago worked in his office, another lawyer, Rheingold, Milton Rheingold.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Incidentally, let me ask you here, did you know a lawyer in Chicago by the name of Weiner?

Mr. RUBY. A lawyer? I don't think so, not a lawyer. I know a doctor, not a lawyer.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Go ahead now with your contact with Bellows.

Mr. RUBY. So we talked to Bellows. I talked to him, rather. And he said he was going to be rather busy, and he wasn't sure he could take the case. As a matter of fact, that is who I wanted originally, because we knew him. His office represented me before Rheingold, was in his office with him, was my civil lawyer in Chicago, more or less, so you know at least we had a knowledge of who we were going to hire. And, in addition to that, he is a great criminal lawyer. He is head of the American Defense Lawyers, and all that.

Mr. GRIFFIN. And had you contacted Bellows before your telephone call to Mike Shore?

Mr. RUBY. Yes; I am quite sure I did, and I asked him to give me an idea of

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the fee because, you know, expenses. Well, he said his fee would run anywhere from $10,000 to $15,000, because he figured it would be a 2- or 3-month trial, plus expenses.

So I, of course, asked him what his expenses might be, and he says it shouldn't be more than, if I recall, $100 or $200 a week for his own expenses, he said, because he doesn't live highly and knowing me he is going to keep it down as low as possible.

Mr. HUBERT. You are talking about Bellows now?

Mr. RUBY. Bellows.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. Ruby, had you discussed a fee with Tom Howard?

Mr. RUBY. I did, but I don't know when.

Mr. GRIFFIN. What was the fee that was finally arrived at with Tom Howard? What was his fee to be?

Mr. RUBY. His fee was originally, if he would stay in all the way, he told me from $10,000 to $15,000.

Mr. GRIFFIN. And how many lawyers did Howard suggest would be needed besides himself?

Mr. RUBY. Well, I mentioned the names, you know, like Bellows. In fact, he talked to Bellows, and we were in the process of probably working something out with Bellows, but he was too busy, and asked—then the question came up as to whether Bellows would be a risk in Dallas, since he is Jewish. And I talked to about a half dozen other lawyers, and I even talked to the best criminal lawyer in Detroit, Joe Louisell. I had a meeting with him. I asked his advice. He says, "Don't bring a Jewish lawyer down there."

Mr. GRIFFIN. What was Howard's view?

Mr. RUBY. Howard agreed with that. So that more or less took Bellows out of the picture. Now, in the meantime, I am back, going to California. So I go to California. They meet me at the airport. Is everything pretty well in sequence up until now?

Mr. GRIFFIN. That is all right, we will clarify. We will ask you some questions about it.

Mr. RUBY. Oh, yes; first the conversation, to get back to Tom Howard, the first one or two conversations, as I said, I talked to him Monday morning. Then I think I talked to him Monday night. I don't remember, I talked to him any number of times. And in our discussions we talked money, costs. He mentioned "It is going to take a couple of months. You have got to figure anywhere total expenses close to $50,000."

I never knew all these things existed that you have to hire a special investigator, and he wants $10,000. And you have got to have an appeals lawyer like Burleson. That is how he came in. You have got to pay him.

Anyhow, he broke it down, roughly, over the phone he says it may run $50,000. So that is why I started asking any lawyer I talked to, like Bellows, "How much are you going to charge? I have got to know all these things. Give me an idea what we have to raise."

Then I had all of this information more or less in the back of my mind, how much have we got to raise to get Jack a decent defense counsel. Then I go out to California. They meet me at the airport, Mike Shore and Woodfield. The first thing they say, "Have you got a lawyer yet?" I says, "No."

I am still talking to Bellows. He is not out yet, you see. He is not out of the picture. Howard is still supposedly trying to contact somebody else that is good. I haven't been to Dallas yet. In the meantime, as I said, he had contacted Foreman and Charlie Tessmer and Fred Erisman. They were out. Fred Brunner, he didn't want to get in at the beginning. Those were considered some of the top criminal lawyers in the State of Texas.

So, anyhow, I meet him, they meet me at the plane in Los Angeles, get in the car. The first thing they ask is "Have you got a lawyer?" And I tell them what is going on. I am not sure yet. So they start talking to me about Belli, Melvin Belli. I had never heard of him. And they couldn't understand it. But I never had. And I told them that, that I had never heard of him, and so they start telling me how great he was, you know, and all that stuff.

And they said, "By coincidence he is in town. He is in L.A."

Mr. GRIFFIN. How long before you arrived did Shore and Woodfield—how

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